

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 have been canceled from the application. New claims 8-11 have been added to the application.

First, Applicant has amended the title of the invention to be more clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Second, claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has canceled claim 4, thus, the rejection is moot.

Finally, claim 1-7 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Arisaka (US 6,048,147). The Examiner contends that Arisaka discloses a fastener assembly comprising a two part fastener having a first sleeve (1) with a flanged end (2) and a second sleeve (21) having a flanged end (22) where the first sleeve is received in the second sleeve and interlocked by a barb (5) and a pin (11) slidably engaging an aperture (2a) of two part fastener and including a head (12) at one end and a barb (14) at an opposite end.

Applicant has canceled claims 1-7 and presented new claims 8-11 with claims 8 and 9 in independent form. Specifically, new independent claim 8 sets forth a fastener assembly for attaching a paneled accessory to a vehicle, the fastener assembly comprising: a two part fastener that interlocks with each other for mounting on the vehicle, the two part fastener comprising a first sleeve (12) having an inner annular channel (22) extending between an annular flange (18) at one end and a barb (20) at an opposite end and a second sleeve (14) having an elongated annular body defining an aperture extending between an annular flange (24) at one end and a barb (26) at an opposite end wherein the second sleeve (14) slidably fits within the annular channel (22) of the first sleeve (12) and the barb (26) of the second sleeve (14) engages the opposite end of the first sleeve (12) to interlock said first and second sleeve; and a pin (16) having a shaft (28) extending between a head (30) at one end and a barb (32) at an opposite end, wherein the pin (16) is sized to slidably fit within the aperture of the second sleeve (14) and the barb (32) of the pin engages the opposite end of the second

sleeve (14) to interlock the pin and the two part fastener thereby sandwiching the paneled accessory to the vehicle.

Additionally, new independent claim 9 sets forth a fastener assembly for attaching a first vehicle panel to a second vehicle panel, the fastener assembly comprising: a first sleeve (12) having an annular outer peripheral channel recessed between an annular flange (18) at one end and barb (20) at an opposite end for receiving the first vehicle panel (44) along the channel between the flange (18) and the barb (20), the first sleeve (12) including an inner annular channel (22) extend between the ends; and a second sleeve (14) having an annular outer peripheral channel recessed between an annular flange (24) at one end and a barb (26) at an opposite end for receiving the second vehicle panel (42) along the channel between the flange (24) and the barb (26), wherein the second sleeve (14) slidably fits within the annular channel (22) of the first sleeve (12) and the barb (26) of the second sleeve (14) engages the opposite end of the first sleeve (12) to interlock the first and second sleeve sandwiching the first and second vehicle panels (42, 44) therebetween.

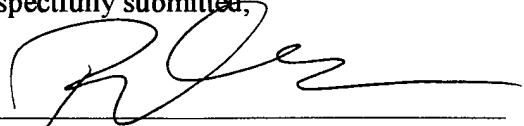
The '147 patent to Arisaka describes a fixing clip wherein the grommet (25) must be expanded outwardly to engage the periphery of the attachment hole and thus does not teach or suggest the present invention as claimed which sandwiches the attachment hole between the barbs and flanges of both of the sleeves. That is, the vehicle panels (42, 44) are each sandwiched between the barbs (20, 26) of each of the sleeves (12, 14) and the flanges (18, 24) of each of the sleeves (12, 14) while the sleeves are interlocked by engagement of the barb (26) with the end of the sleeve (12). Finally, the pin 16 attaches a further or third vehicle panel (40) to the two part fastener by sandwiching the panel (40) between the flange (26) of the second sleeve (14) and the head (30) of the pin (16) and then securing the pin (16) to the fastener by engaging the barbs (32) of the pin (16) with the end of the second sleeve (14). Therefore, the '147 patent to Arisaka clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the structure,

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function or combination of the present invention as now set forth in new claims 8-11 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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